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General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 32
United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

Note by the Secretariat

A note verbale was sent by the Secretariat of the United Nations to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations referring to General Assembly resolution 54/113 of 10 December 1999 on the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, and also to the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/54/546) which was submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session in accordance with resolution 53/22. In resolution 54/113 the Secretary-General was asked to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a further substantive report on preparations for the Year, and Member States were asked to submit information regarding any activities undertaken in preparation for the Year.

So far, the following Permanent Missions have submitted reports: Belarus, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Norway, Russian Federation. The Observer Mission of Switzerland has submitted a report. Reports have also been received from Secretariat departments and other entities of the United Nations system, as follows: Office of Legal Affairs, Department for Disarmament Affairs, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Department of Public Information, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, International Labour Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union. A report has also been received from the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The reports are available for consultation in the Division for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

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United Nations A/55/544/Corr.1

General Assembly

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Agenda item 32
United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

Note by the Secretariat

Corrigendum

Document A/55/544 is hereby withdrawn.

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United Nations A/55/545

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 109
Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

New international humanitarian order

Report of the Secretary-General*

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/124 of 9 December 1998, taking note of the previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/37/145, A/38/450, A/40/358 and Add.1 and 2, A/41/472, A/43/734 and Add.1, A/45/524, A/47/352, A/49/577 and Corr.1, A/51/454 and A/53/486), expressed appreciation for his continuing support to the efforts to promote a new international humanitarian order. The Assembly invited Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian issues of special concern to them in order to identify opportunities for future action. It also invited the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to continue and to further strengthen its activities in cooperation with the governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments and non-governmental organizations, including the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, and to report thereon to it at its fifty-fifth session.

2. Since the inclusion of the item entitled "New international humanitarian order" in the agenda of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has submitted 10 reports and transmitted to the Assembly the views of more than 60 Governments and a number of specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations. On 14 July 2000, pursuant to Assembly resolution 53/124, the Secretary-General once again requested Member States to provide to him their views and information.

3. The attention of the General Assembly is also drawn to reports of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to its resolution 46/182 (A/50/203-E/1995/79, A/51/172-E/1996/77, E/1997/98, A/52/443 and A/53/139-E/1998/67) and subsequent resolutions on the strengthening of the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to humanitarian emergencies. In those reports, the Secretary-General addressed questions relevant to the promotion of a new international humanitarian order, which were also addressed in General Assembly resolutions 47/168, 48/57, 49/139 A and B, 50/57, 51/194 and 52/168 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/56.

4. In his report on the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century (A/54/2000), the Secretary-General highlighted the need to combat impunity, to strengthen respect for international law and universally accepted norms in situations of armed conflict and to reassert the centrality of international humanitarian and human rights law. He also stressed the need to devise new strategies to meet changing needs. At the

* The footnote requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/248 was not included in the present submission.

00-73120 (E) 081100

Millennium Summit, held in New York at the commencement of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the assembled Heads of State and Government emphasized the importance for the United Nations and the international community to rise to the challenges posed by contemporary global society as well as the moral and humanitarian aspects of the work of the world Organization.

5. At the Millennium Summit, the Secretary-General also pleaded on behalf of civilians and innocent victims of armed conflict and called upon States to support his ongoing efforts to strengthen their legal and physical protection. Despite the existence of a comprehensive international legal framework, civilians are increasingly being targeted to meet the military and political objectives of the belligerents. Even the most comprehensive humanitarian programmes are proving inadequate to respond to a culture of lawlessness and widespread disrespect for international norms and principles.

6. In his report to the Security Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/1999/957), the Secretary-General pointed out that despite the adoption over the past 50 years of the various conventions on international humanitarian and human rights law, hardly a day went by where we were not presented with evidence of the intimidation, brutalization, torture and killing of helpless civilians in situations of armed conflict. In that connection, the Secretary-General called for renewed efforts to promote and ensure a climate of compliance.

7. It is becoming increasingly clear that there is an urgent need not only to promote greater awareness of but also to effectively address the underlying causes that fuel and generate breaches of international law in armed conflict and to ensure adequate responses with a view to preventing or mitigating the suffering of innocent victims. There is an inherent complementarity between the two legal frameworks of international humanitarian and human rights law. In theory, the stipulations of these mutually reinforcing frameworks are universally accepted but, in practice, as the Secretary-General has repeatedly stated, the legal frameworks fall short of expectations in terms of tangible results on the ground. It is imperative, therefore, that the search for more adequate means and methods continue.

8. In establishing a framework for renewed efforts, a more sophisticated understanding is required of the complex issues that underpin the lack of respect for humanitarian norms and principles. The general public is not sufficiently familiar with international humanitarian and human rights legislation, especially in conflict-prone regions, nor are sustained efforts made in peacetime to adequately involve citizens and civil society, who are the principal stakeholders. Likewise, despite increasing emphasis on respect for human rights, their relationship with the long-term political stability and socio-economic development of the country is not adequately highlighted.

9. Against this background, the Secretary-General has asked the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to conduct an in-depth study of the implementation of international humanitarian and human rights law at the field level in crisis situations, in close consultation with the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat. This initiative is based on the recognition that in facing complex humanitarian emergencies, ever growing in scale and gravity, there is an urgent need not so much to develop new international instruments but rather to ensure effective compliance with the existing ones by States as well as non-State actors. It is anticipated that the findings of the study will constitute the starting point for other initiatives that would serve to promote implementation and accountability in the context of humanitarian and human rights law or, in other words, to promote a culture of compliance.

10. The Secretary-General is convinced that a positive response by Member States to the invitation by the General Assembly, in its resolution 53/124, to make available to the Secretary-General information and expertise on humanitarian problems of special concern to them in order to identify opportunities for future action would help to develop an agenda for humanitarian action at the national, regional and international levels. The Secretary-General also suggests that Member States may wish to give particular attention in their replies to the description of efforts being undertaken in their countries to promote compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law and to confront effectively situations in which these laws are violated.

11. In keeping with the focus of his report (A/54/2000), submitted on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, and the encouraging response of

Heads of State and Government, the Secretary-General is of the view that the momentum thus gained must be further strengthened. One of the possibilities readily available to the General Assembly is to make more effective use of the agenda item relating to the promotion of a new international humanitarian order. This item has been used in the past to address new aspects of humanitarian problems, to design appropriate strategies to respond to emerging challenges, to examine basic tenets that should govern humanitarian action in cases of large-scale emergencies and to strengthen international cooperation in the humanitarian field.

12. The Secretary-General suggests that consideration of the question in the current session of the General Assembly might focus specifically on ways to effectively promote a culture of compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law.

Annex

Replies received from Governments and the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues

Bangladesh

1. The Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to draw attention to the latter's note verbale of 14 July 2000 relating to General Assembly resolution 53/124 of 9 December 1998 on a new international humanitarian order.

2. The Government of Bangladesh is fully committed to humanitarian norms and principles and their strict adherence by all concerned. This position is reflected in general in the activities and pronouncements of the Government of Bangladesh. Bangladesh also strongly supports and takes initiatives for the formulation of international principles and legislation that are responsive to actual and potential humanitarian problems.

3. In view of the multiplicity and complexity of humanitarian agencies in many parts of the world, Bangladesh supports comprehensive and well-coordinated action on the part of the international community, in particular the United Nations, to meet adequately challenges presented by those emergencies. Bangladesh is particularly concerned about the issue of access of humanitarian personnel and about the condition of women, children and the elderly in humanitarian emergencies.

4. Bangladesh has also taken a very proactive role in the consideration of humanitarian issues as a member of the Security Council. During its Presidency of the Council in March 2000, a thematic debate was chaired by the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh on the humanitarian aspects of issues before the Security Council. A comprehensive presidential statement (S/PRST/2000/7) was issued after the debate articulating many of the positions taken by Bangladesh on humanitarian issues. During the debate in the Security Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, in April 2000, Bangladesh articulated its position (see S/PV.4130 and Corr.1 and Resumption 1 and Corr.1), emphasizing specific action for effective and focused coordination between and among the all major humanitarian actors, led by the United Nations, as that would have the greatest impact on the mitigation of the difficulties faced by countless innocent people in humanitarian emergencies.

Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues

1. The Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues welcomes the importance attached by the Secretary-General to the need to promote a "culture of compliance" in the field of international humanitarian and human rights law. In addition to his recent reports on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/1999/957) and on the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century (A/54/2000), the Secretary-General drew attention to persistent violations of internationally recognized norms and principles and the continuing loss of life of innocent civilians in the context of General Assembly resolution 53/124 when he addressed a note to all Member States on 14 July 2000, highlighting the problem of non-compliance and drawing attention to the ongoing efforts to promote a "new international humanitarian order", with which the Bureau has been associated ever since its inception. The Bureau looks forward to close cooperation with the United Nations, notably the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in this respect.

2. The Bureau deeply appreciates the trend being encouraged through the above-mentioned note by the Secretary-General to make the discussion of the agenda item relating to a new international humanitarian order more issue-specific, thus reviving the original purpose of considering under this item those humanitarian issues which are inadequately addressed under other items. It is thus that in the late 1980s, France introduced a resolution regarding humanitarian emergencies, and the Russian Federation did the same for promoting greater international cooperation in the humanitarian field. The Bureau earnestly hopes that in the context of consideration of a new international humanitarian order, Governments will wish to launch new ideas and initiatives in response to emerging humanitarian challenges. In particular, it is hoped that,

in line with the invitation of the General Assembly in its resolution 53/124, Governments will make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian problems of special concern to them in order to identify opportunities for future action. The views and expertise thus provided to the Secretary-General would constitute the building blocks of an agenda for humanitarian action, as suggested previously by the Bureau (see A/51/454), to be prepared along lines similar to those of the earlier reports of the Secretary-General dealing with agendas for peace and development.

3. Recalling the views expressed by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina (see A/53/486, annex) concerning basic tenets that should govern humanitarian action in emergency situations, the Bureau remains convinced that standard-setting and guidance by the General Assembly in this regard would be most useful, not only for strengthening the process of international humanitarian legislation, but also for preventing or alleviating widespread human suffering. While appreciating the ongoing efforts regarding minimum humanitarian standards, protection of civilians and humanitarian aid workers and the like, it would be most timely also to consider the adoption of a declaration based on the tenets enumerated in the above-mentioned document. The Bureau intends to continue its efforts in this regard.

4. Likewise, the Bureau has taken note of and proposes to provide support to some of the ideas mentioned in the context of the Millennium Summit, such as the need to adopt a convention concerning the rights of the disabled and an international convention on the fight against corruption. The Bureau is also of the view that adequate international legislation is required to address some recurring humanitarian problems, such as mass expulsions, forced relocation of populations and protection of internally displaced persons. These are issues first articulated in the 1980s by the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues and for which the Bureau, as the follow-up mechanism established by the Commission, has continued to play its role of advocacy and action-oriented research.

5. Since its forty-second session, when the General Assembly took note of the final report of the Independent Commission and drew the attention of Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to its recommendations, considerable progress has been made in their implementation at the national and international levels. However, about one third of some 160 recommendations on a wide range of subjects still await action. Similarly, in responding to the invitation of the General Assembly to provide views concerning a new international humanitarian order, more than 60 Governments have so far responded. It would be most timely if a group of governmental and non-governmental experts could be formed to analyse these views, suggestions and recommendations and encourage other Governments that have not yet done so to come forward with those views so that the future course of action can be determined. It is worthwhile noting in this regard that it is generally recognized by Governments that the term "new international humanitarian order" does not mean replacing the existing international instruments, but rather building upon them in order to respond to new humanitarian problems or to new aspects of existing problems that have been inadequately addressed. The previous reports of the Secretary-General on this question have paid attention to this aspect. Thus, the concept of a new international humanitarian order was seen as adding a multidisciplinary dimension to the collective approach to human rights and humanitarian issues (see A/40/358/Add.2).

6. A comprehensive review of existing international humanitarian legislation has been suggested in order to identify gaps that need to be filled and the duplications that should be eliminated (see A/45/524). Likewise, the importance of further codification of "third-generation human rights", namely, collective rights such as the right to life, to a safe environment and so on, was stressed. It has also been suggested that a new international humanitarian order should stress the inclusion of human rights in national constitutions in order to strengthen their protection at the national level (A/49/577 and Corr.1). This would eventually link up with the efforts to promote a culture of compliance, as suggested by the Secretary-General.

7. As for the Bureau's normal activities (see A/53/486), these are being further strengthened in the field of action-oriented research, local capacity-building, advocacy and dissemination, as well as cooperation with the United Nations system. In addition to reports on specific issues supported by various Governments, the Bureau has also acted as

implementing partner of national aid agencies as well as intergovernmental bodies such as the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the like.

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Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

This report is based on a review of commercial activities undertaken in response to General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and identifies a number of practical measures that can be taken by the Secretariat to boost sales and revenues of and attract more customers for existing commercial services at the United Nations. The measures outlined are to be noted by Member States. Measures requiring more detailed consideration are taken up in the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General in which a new visitors' experience is proposed.

* The delay in submission of the present report is due to required internal consultations and to coordination in the preparation of a comprehensive report on a new visitors' experience.

00-73302 (E) 101100

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I. Background

1. This constitutes one of two reports prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, in which the Secretary-General was invited to propose measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations, in particular the sale of publications at Geneva, to develop, where appropriate, new income-generating measures, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session. In his report to the fifty-third session, the Secretary-General outlined the measures being undertaken in Geneva concerning the sale of publications.[1]

2. The present report is largely based on an independent assessment conducted by a private consulting firm contracted by the Secretariat. It should also be reviewed in conjunction with the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on a proposed new visitors' experience, which will be submitted to the current session of the General Assembly.

3. The review, which used the guidelines on cooperation between the United Nations and the business community promulgated in July 2000 as its framework, covered the work of the United Nations Postal Administration; the guided tours; the United Nations Bookshop/publications; the Gift Centre; catering services; and the news-stand.

4. While certain measures identified in the review pertain only to specific commercial activities, some findings are common to all and need to be addressed on a priority basis. The review determined that commercial activities should be managed separately from other core activities of the Secretariat. In particular, conditions need to be created for all commercial activities to be able to: review their revenue and expenditure figures independently of other items associated with the United Nations budget and in a more frequent, timely and regular manner; secure regular feedback from clients; mount limited marketing campaigns based on feedback received; and make better use of information systems and the Internet, both for expenditure and revenue management and for product marketing and e-commerce possibilities. The review also noted that the proposal on a new United Nations visitors' experience would, during implementation, result in the introduction of measures that would increase the number of visitors to the United Nations and raise current levels of attendance registered by the various commercial activities through a process of careful repositioning and reorientation.

5. As part of the general recommendations on commercial activities, the review found that, as current staff retire, there is a need for clarification of management structures and responsibilities and renewed attention to the possible recruitment of personnel with some commercial management experience for these specific positions. Furthermore, related support services, including procurement, financial information, technology and human resources, need to be fine-tuned, where pertinent, to the requirements of commercial activities. While actual commercial activities will continue to be competitively outsourced, it is clear that new core staff to be recruited in the Commercial Activities Service will need to have certain retail, marketing, strategy and management experience in order to drive the reform process forward.

II. Current state of commercial activities and recommendations for improvement

A. Overall management of commercial activities

6. The salient findings of the review revealed that, if the profitability of commercial activities at the United Nations is to be increased, the overall outlook and approach to the management of commercial activities at the United Nations needs to be changed. More specifically, the management of commercial activities should be distinct from the management of core programme activities of the Secretariat and the overall non-commercial nature of the Organization.

7. Planning for commercial activities is limited by the biennial budget document preparation and periodic General Assembly inquiries. In recognition of the separate and particular requirements of commercial activities, strategic planning more targeted to those specific needs needs to be introduced, taking into account market and product as well as revenue and expenditure information.

8. A strategic plan will be developed to clearly communicate the long-term vision and coordinate efforts across commercial activities. Such a process

will take into account the results of future customer surveys from Member States and market research.

9. At present, the commercial entities at the United Nations report to both the Department of Public Information and the Office of Central Support Services. The news-stand, catering, the Gift Centre and the United Nations Postal Administration report to the Office of Central Support Services, while the United Nations Bookshop/publications and guided tour operations report to the Department of Public Information. The introduction of new, adjusted management practices over a period of time will be undertaken jointly by both departments in a coherent and coordinated manner with a view to ensuring consistency and maximizing effectiveness and efficiency.

10. Marketing activities for each commercial area are extremely limited in financial as well as human resources and there is a need for planned promotional coordination throughout the commercial operations. This process would include market research and development, product pricing and market placement as well as order fulfilment and efficient product delivery mechanisms. There is, at present, no process to collect and integrate customer feedback for any of the commercial activities. The management of each commercial activity needs to carry out customer surveys, provide customer service training to staff and improve the services delivered (for example, by making each customer's experience a positive one).

11. The Secretariat intends to look into the economic and substantive viability of outsourcing market research and client feedback from Member States, with a view to conducting these activities on a regular and routine basis. The mix of products available for sale, the presentation of these products and the method of sales will all, to a certain degree, be redefined based on the information accessed through such surveys.

12. Insufficient use has been made of cross-promotion between commercial activities at the United Nations, and has probably reduced business. For instance, it is noted that tour guides make uneven use of opportunities to better inform visitors to the United Nations about other commercial activities at the conclusion of the tours. More systematic promotion of commercial activities by tour guides will be introduced, as will simple upgrading of the present signage to make it more user-friendly and easy to follow.

13. In the spirit of the current decentralization of web-based activities, during the next biennium the Commercial Activities Service will look into the gradual development of web-based sales of postal stamps, books, international arts and gifts and, possibly, the sale of tickets to the United Nations visitors' experience, with a view not only to boosting sales, but also to better promoting the image of the United Nations.

14. There is a need for revenue and other financial information to be more readily and frequently available to those involved in the management of commercial activities. In some instances, data such as sales and expense information, which are required to manage the services, are not available within a reasonable amount of time. Without timely financial information, managers are not able to make critical business decisions that could impact their financial performance. Relatively simple management changes will be introduced to ensure that such information becomes available as required, thereby laying the foundation for better strategic management and planning.

15. These changes will be accompanied by a continued effort to address the issue of creating a service-oriented culture and raising the overall level of professionalism within those units directly involved in managing commercial services while preserving the non-commercial nature of the United Nations.

B. Findings and recommendations pertaining to individual commercial activities

United Nations Postal Administration

16. Net income at the United Nations Postal Administration, which is projected at approximately $11,200,000 during the biennium 2000-2001, is derived from the Postal Administration sales counter, located in the Public Concourse of the General Assembly Building, and from the Customer Service and Order Fulfilment Unit. The net profit that derives to the United Nations from this operation is estimated at approximately $2,600,000.

17. The profitability of this operation may be substantially improved by reorienting its focus, renegotiating its relationship agreement with the host country's postal administration and boosting its marketing activities.

18. Stamp collecting, potentially one of the principal sources of profitability in this operation, is, in the long term, hampered by a global decline in the growth of stamp collecting as the average age of stamp collectors continues to rise. This is further affected by insufficient marketing of new issues by the Postal Administration and the fact that current margins for dealers are insufficient to warrant their devotion of significant resources to the promotion of United Nations stamps.

19. Relatively simple improvements will need to be made to the layout of the Postal Administration sales counter to make it more customer-friendly (for example, the signage in this area requires improvement). To improve sales, it is recommended that narrative about Postal Administration stamps be better communicated to the customers and that product information and portfolios of offerings, such as prestige booklets and souvenir cards, be prominently advertised. At present, if a visitor has a question about a stamp, the sales person must refer them back to the kiosk to see the different offerings, often leading to a loss in sales.

20. In order for the mail operations of the Postal Administration to become profitable, the United Nations may consider renegotiating its agreement with the host country's postal administration since, under the present arrangement, the United Nations reimburses the host country's postal administration for the full face value of all mail sent. This results in a net loss for each stamp mailed from United Nations Headquarters. The new agreement will seek to allow the Organization to recover the direct and indirect costs associated with producing and selling stamps.

21. Finally, strategic planning in the postal administration would be considerably improved by raising the quality of available data upon which such planning can be based. Current cost data does not provide sufficient details to make decisions regarding dealer discounts, promotional investments, stamp design and profitability of other Postal Administration products. Through introduction of strategic planning, the Postal Administration will be able to purposefully steer its course and monitor its success. This would enable the systematic development of new philatelic customers, which would lead to a greater source of revenue for the Postal Administrative and the Member States, as well as a heightened awareness of the United Nations and its mission.

Guided tours

22. The proposal for the new United Nations visitors' experience outlines a number of concrete steps that would result in elimination of the current losses of the guided tour operation and bring about its return to profitability. Steps proposed include an increase in the cap on the number of visitors permitted per tour. This would to be achieved, under the capital master plan, by introducing a series of improvements to the physical facilities, aimed at reducing the security risks involved in handling an increase in volume with the limited number of tour guides available. A restructuring of the fees for access to an upgraded series of exhibits and the guided tour itself would significantly improve returns.

23. The guided tours present an excellent opportunity for publicizing the other commercial services available to visitors. As the guided tour ends in the vicinity of all other United Nations commercial activities, it is proposed that the tour guides be more consistent in directing the visitors to the Gift Centre, the Postal Administration sales counter, the United Nations Bookstore and the coffee shop. This is a prime opportunity for the tour guides to communicate with the visitors regarding all the services available at the United Nations.

24. The Guided Tours Unit would also benefit from a systematic survey of visitors' opinions in order to obtain feedback on the guided tour as well as the visitors' experience as a whole. Such information would serve as the basis for strategic planning and upgrading of the guided tour itself, as well as other commercial activities. During the biennium 2000-2001, revenue is estimated at $5,550,000, with a net negative revenue of $1,231,000.

United Nations Bookshop/publications

25. The United Nations Bookshop is located in the Public Concourse under the supervision of the Department of Public Information. It is the premier source for books on global issues published by the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The United Nations is also engaged in the direct sales of its

publications. Of total direct sales, about 70 per cent are to libraries, while, of the remaining sales, approximately 5 per cent is to businesses, non-governmental organizations, bookshops and Governments, respectively. Sales in North America and Europe combined represent 88 per cent of total sales.

26. Revenue to the United Nations is projected at $13,200,000 for the biennium 2000-2001, with net profits estimated at $1,800,000. Net revenues from the Bookshop have declined each of the past four years, from a record high in 1995 during the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

27. It is recommended that the United Nations consider using a contractor with book and/or retail experience. The United Nations Bookshop will be able to capitalize on the marketing and sales experience from such a contractor, a strength not otherwise available in-house. Increased marketing, sales and customer service awareness in the Bookshop will ultimately lead to enhanced customer experience and amplified awareness of United Nations publications, resulting in greater sales and direct effects on net income to Member States.

28. The Bookshop and United Nations publications are not sufficiently prepared for e-commerce. Customers can currently print a purchase form from the web site, fill it out and fax it in to the Bookshop. Due to advancements in technology, a customer's ability to purchase from a web site is no longer a privilege, but an expectation. Direct purchases on the web would undoubtedly increase sales and considerably broaden the range of potential clients.

Gift Centre

29. The United Nations Gift Centre is located in the Public Concourse of the General Assembly Building and provides visitors, members of delegations and staff in New York with United Nations mementos, souvenirs, handicrafts, gifts and items from around the world, maintaining a balance of the different arts and crafts representing the cultures of all Member States of the Organization.

30. The Gift Centre operation is currently under contract management to the Hudson News Company. Profits deriving to the United Nations from the Gift Centre are projected at $1,825,000 for the biennium 2000-2001.

31. The current location of the Gift Centre undoubtedly reduces traffic and sales. Repositioning the Centre in conjunction with the introduction of the new visitors' experience would contribute to greater public attendance and increased sales. Additional time needs to be provided to tour groups for shopping at the Gift Centre. In conjunction with improved publicity for the Gift Centre, which could best be provided by the tour guides as part of the guided tour itself, its relocation will result in increased business.

Catering

32. The Commercial Activities Service is responsible for the oversight of all food service operations at United Nations Headquarters. All café, cafeteria and dining operations are contracted to Restaurant Associates. Under this contractual arrangement, entered into in 1997, the United Nations receives 8 per cent of gross revenues subject to a minimum of $500,000 per year. For the fiscal years 1998 and 1999, the net revenue for catering did not generate a percentage that would supersede the minimum financial obligation, hence, the gross contribution made to the United Nations by Restaurant Associates was $500,000 in each of these years. This is offset by direct charges against the operations.

33. The imminent expiry of the contract with Restaurant Associates presents an opportunity for better clarification of the respective roles of the United Nations and the contractor and the basis upon which the United Nations commission on catering receipts is calculated, as well as for consideration of the possible allocation of different parts of the catering service to different contractors. An opportunity exists, once the current contract expires, to outsource the coffee shop to another provider with brand-name recognition, with a view to making the coffee shop more attractive to visitors and ensuring that the service benefits from better marketing, presentation and sensitivity to the demands of clients. In addition, placing a vendor with brand-name recognition in the café, under appropriate contractual arrangements, will increase sales and ultimately increase revenue generated for the United Nations and the Member States.

III. Action requested

34. Improving the profitability of commercial activities and services provided to delegates, United

Nations personnel and the public must be viewed as an important part of ongoing reforms at the United Nations and will need to be implemented and closely monitored over an extended period of time. The creation of conditions that would enable such targeted monitoring and strategic management are an essential enabling factor in this overall effort. Most of the steps proposed constitute routine but important changes in management practices that can be readily introduced by the Secretariat.

35. The General Assembly is therefore requested to take note of the measures outlined in the present report and to encourage the Secretariat to proceed with their implementation in a manner that would not in any way compromise the international and non-commercial nature of the Organization.

Notes

[1] A/53/794.

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 64
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 8 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to bring to your kind attention the unofficial translation of the press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, dated 6 October 2000, as well as the text of the statement issued by the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the European Union, Ambassador Nihat Akyol, on 4 October 2000 (see annex I).

I also have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 6 November 2000, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex II).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-73601 (E) 091100 091100

Annex I to the letter dated 8 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

A. Unofficial translation of the press statement made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey regarding the report on the unilateral accession negotiations of the Greek Cypriot Administration with the European Union on 6 October 2000

The General Assembly of the European Parliament has adopted on 4 October 2000 the report of rapporteur Jacques Poos regarding the unilateral accession negotiations of the Greek Cypriot Administration with the European Union.

Both the report and the motion for a resolution have demonstrated once again the biased and unrealistic approach to the Cyprus issue of the members of the European Parliament who voted for the resolution.

The Permanent Representative of Turkey to the European Union has reflected our views regarding the resolution in a press statement.

The Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has also made its views known through its statement.

We fully share the viewpoint and the position of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The one-sided resolution accepted in the European Parliament will serve to augment the intransigence of the Greek Cypriot side at a time when the proximity talks are under way, and will create difficulties for the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

B. Statement to the press by H.E. Mr. Nihat Akyol, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the European Union, Strasbourg, 4 October 2000

I wish to express my profound concern regarding the report by Mr. Jacques Poos on the application of Cyprus for membership in the European Union and the state of the negotiations, adopted today by the Parliament.

This is a sensitive matter which concerns both peace and Ankara's desire to develop its relations with the Union along the lines drawn at Helsinki.

The principal reasons for my concern are:

(a) The tone of the paragraphs concerning Turkey is aggressive and incompatible with the positive and constructive spirit which should henceforth govern relations between Europe and Turkey and the formulation of an accession partnership (see para. 19 of the Explanatory Statement);

(b) The report represents a departure from the generally cautious approach adopted in the drafting of previous reports on the Cyprus case. Yet the Helsinki Summit did not endorse automatic membership for Cyprus, but confirmed that the final decision would take account of "all relevant factors" in the case, which is — as

the European Commission has continually emphasized — a complex and sensitive one. In addition, I note in this connection the quite negative reactions of the Greek Cypriots to certain positions recently adopted by the Commission and the Council.

Whereas the Presidency of the Union, in a statement, publicly welcomed the continuation of the proximity talks on the Cyprus question and gave its unreserved support to the persevering efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and despite the latest statement by the Secretary-General made in New York on 12 September 2000, the draft report directly interferes in this negotiation and recommends that the Union should intervene in several ways and in a manner very dangerous for the peace and stability of the region (see paras. 3, 4 and 6 of the resolution and paras. 23 to 26 of the Explanatory Statement).

This position is likely to upset the two Cypriot Parties and to jeopardize the climate of confidence required by such negotiations. The European Parliament will not fail to appreciate the weight of this responsibility, particularly in the light of paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Statement, which specifies that "The aim of this report is not to interfere in the proximity talks".

Without wishing to reopen the debate on the origin of the Cypriot conflict which led to the present situation, it appears that the rapporteur has completely ignored this historical context and that this has led him to recommend that the Turkish Cypriot side should adopt an attitude incompatible with the approach followed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and "join with the delegation of the legal Government of Cyprus, unconditionally" (para. 3 of the draft resolution). This would be tantamount to destroying the fragile equilibrium of the entire negotiations.

Lastly, the report prejudges the future in a number of areas: not only the conclusion of the accession negotiations between the Union and Cyprus (para. C of the draft resolution) but also the role of the Union under the common European security and defence policy (CESDP) in the eastern Mediterranean region (para. 9 of the draft resolution and para. 25 of the Explanatory Statement), although the CESDP is only just taking shape and attempts are being made to develop it in concertation and in harmony with the allied countries such as Turkey which are both candidates and members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The report ignores these facts and tries to commit the Union to using the CESDP as an instrument of pressure and intervention.

On the subject of the accession partnership currently being formulated for Turkey, I should like to point out that the Helsinki decision had the merit of legally separating the Cyprus case from Turkey's accession process. There is no doubt that my country hopes that a fair and lasting solution to the Cyprus question will be found between the two sides directly concerned in Cyprus.

I regret the fact that, although he is a former Minister for Foreign Affairs aware of what is at stake both in the Cyprus question and in the relations of Turkey with the European Union, the rapporteur reached these conclusions. Of course, he will bear full responsibility for guiding the European Parliament into a position which will not contribute to the solution of the Cyprus question. The resolution adopted today in the European Parliament will not facilitate the search for a fair and lasting peace in Cyprus.

Annex II to the letter dated 8 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter dated 26 October 2000 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations (A/55/524-S/2000/1035), enclosing the text of the recent resolution on Cyprus adopted by the European Parliament, I have the honour to convey herewith the statement made by H.E. Dr. Derviş Eroğlu, Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in connection with the above-mentioned resolution (see appendix).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Appendix

Statement by H.E. Dr. Derviş Eroğlu, Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Lefkoşa, 5 October 2000

Yesterday (4 October 2000), the General Assembly of the European Parliament adopted a motion for a resolution on the Cyprus issue reflecting the Greek Cypriot viewpoint based on the report prepared by the former Foreign Minister of Luxembourg and current "Cyprus" Rapporteur of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, Mr. Jacques Poos, which entails false charges against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Turkey.

The stance taken in the resolution of the European Parliament to the effect that the Greek Cypriot administration can become a full member of the European Union in the absence of a comprehensive settlement, constitute the last link in the European Union's chain of errors which began with the acceptance, in 1990, of the Greek Cypriot administration's unilateral and illegal application for European Union membership and continued with the Luxembourg decision of 1997 to start "accession negotiations" with the Greek Cypriot side. Contrary to the claim made in the report that objection to the Greek Cypriot administration's accession to the European Union on account of the particular circumstances prevailing on the island would be both politically and morally untenable, it is in fact the Greek Cypriot administration's attempt, as the purported "legitimate government", to enter into accession negotiations with the European Union in the name of the whole of Cyprus that contradicts political, legal and moral norms.

The European Parliament's call upon the European Union to assume a more active role in the Cyprus question is in complete ignorance of and detrimental to the process of proximity talks being conducted under the United Nations Secretary-General's mission of good offices. With this stance, the European Parliament has proved that it is far from assuming an impartial and constructive posture in the Cyprus question.

Although it is a fact known to everyone that Turkey's effective guarantee is of vital importance for the existence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in his report Mr. Poos has backed the Greek-Greek Cypriot duo, who have been trying to abrogate the Treaty of Guarantee since the establishment of the 1960 Partnership Republic with the sole aim of annihilating the Turkish Cypriot people and thereby annexing the island to Greece. Furthermore, Poos has gone as far as questioning the military presence of motherland Turkey, which is a Guarantor power, and calling for the deployment of an international force.

While the intransigent posture of the Greek Cypriot side, which has been totally spoiled by the green light given by the European Union for its unilateral membership and while the constructive proposals made hitherto by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are evident, this latest unfortunate decision accusing the Turkish side of lack of goodwill, shows how one-sided this decision is. The rather recent statement of the leader of the Greek Cypriot administration, Mr. Clerides, at the second round of proximity talks held in Geneva, rejecting the establishment of a "new partnership" on account of their objective of upholding the so-called "Republic of Cyprus" and his latest reaction to the statement of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, at the fourth round of proximity talks in New York, show the true posture and intentions of the Greek Cypriot side.

It is also unfortunate that this report, which ignores the political and legal realities on the island, comes out at a time when the process of proximity talks is continuing. In this context, our expectation is that the European Union executive organs and the European Union Council of Ministers take a more realistic and responsible stance and prevent this motion from gaining an official status so that the European Union will escape the responsibility for any inconclusiveness of the proximity talks process.

The European Parliament, with its recent decision which is devoid of any balance or impartiality, has, more than anything else, damaged its own functions. We want to believe that this unfortunate decision will not be honoured by the more responsible executive organs of the European Union. We expect this from them. Otherwise, the European Union will go into history as the organization which has contributed to the permanence of the division of the island of Cyprus. We believe that the Governments of the European Union member countries will not accept such a result. We are also expecting all those parties which are undertaking serious efforts in goodwill with a view to furthering the current process of the United Nations-sponsored proximity talks, to remind the European Parliament of its human and political responsibilities in this matter.

United Nations A/55/548–S/2000/1077

General Assembly
Security Council

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9 November 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 46
The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 8 November 2000 from the Secretary-General to the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the texts of letters dated 30 October 2000 (see annexes I and II) addressed to my Personal Representative for Afghanistan by the two Afghan warring parties, expressing their agreement to a process of dialogue under my good offices aimed at bringing about, in the shortest possible time, an end to the armed conflict in Afghanistan through political means (see annex III).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and the annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

00-73718 (E) 091100

Annex I

I have the honour to request, on behalf of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, that you make public the attached agreement.

(*Signed*) Mulla Amir Khan **Muttaqi**
Minister of Education and Head of the negotiating delegation

Annex II

I have the honour to request, on behalf of the Islamic State of Afghanistan that you make public the attached agreement.

(*Signed*) Abdullah **Abdullah**
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Head of the negotiating commission of the Islamic State of Afghanistan

Annex III

Agreement

The two sides hereby agree to a process of dialogue under the good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations aimed at bringing about, in the shortest possible time, an end to the armed conflict in Afghanistan through political means.

The two sides agree that this process will be conducted either by means of direct meetings between their respective negotiating commissions with the active participation of the Secretary-General or his Personal Representative or indirectly through the intermediary of the Secretary-General or his Personal Representative.

Each side undertakes to be represented in the dialogue by a high-level, duly authorized commission.

The two sides undertake to participate in the dialogue with serious intent and in good faith and not to abandon the process unilaterally but rather to pursue it without interruption until the negotiating agenda, to be agreed by the two sides, is exhausted.

United Nations A/55/549

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 60 (b)
United Nations reform: measures and proposals: the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations

Letter dated 8 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to the annex to the letter dated 8 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and circulated by him (A/55/371).

The British Government fully supports the right to self-determination outlined in paragraph 4 of the Millennium Declaration. The wishes of the people of the Falkland Islands on their relationship with the United Kingdom are clear. Their views have been expressed before the Committee of 24. The people of the Falkland Islands do not want to be part of Argentina.

We have no doubt about Britain's sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and our other Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic. The British Government is confident that our relations with Argentina will continue to flourish in a spirit of reconciliation, cooperation and mutual interest that will enable us to manage our differences on sovereignty while making practical arrangements on matters of common interest in the South Atlantic.

I should be most grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 60 (b).

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**

00-74043 (E) 131100

United Nations A/55/550

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 9
General debate

Letter dated 8 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by His Excellency Mr. Fernando De la Rua, President of Argentina, on 7 September 2000 in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and the annexed statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 9.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**

00-74124 (E) 131100

Annex to letter dated 8 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the President of Argentina in the general debate on 7 September 2000

The British Government is pleased at the continued strengthening of our bilateral relations with Argentina, including this year through meetings between Prime Minister Blair and President De la Rua and between our Foreign Ministers.

The Joint Statement signed between our two countries in July 1999 demonstrates clearly that the United Kingdom and Argentina can manage our differences on sovereignty while making practical arrangements on matters of common interest in the South Atlantic.

However, we wish to recall that there is nothing in the agreement that compromises the position of the United Kingdom in relation to its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands: we have no doubt about Britain's sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and the other British overseas territories in the South Atlantic.

We have a duty to respect and defend the right to self-determination of the people of the Falkland Islands. The elected representatives of the Islanders once again expressed their views clearly when they visited the United Nations for this year's debate in the Committee of 24 on 11 July. They asked the Committee to recognize that they, like any other democratic people, were entitled to exercise the right to self-determination. They reiterated that the people of the Falkland Islands wanted to remain British and did not want to be part of Argentina.

The British Government remains committed to the Joint Statement and despite our differences with Argentina on the subject of sovereignty we are confident that we will build on this agreement and that our relations will continue to flourish in the spirit of reconciliation, cooperation and mutual interest.

United Nations A/55/551

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 65

Reduction of military budgets

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Rastislav **Gabriel** (Slovakia)

1. The item entitled "Reduction of military budgets" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980.

2. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 September 2000, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 65 to 81, which was held at the 3rd to 13th meetings, from 2 to 13 October (see A/C.1/55/PV.3-13). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 14th to 21st meetings, from 13 to 23 October (see A/C.1/55/PV.14-21). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 22nd to 28th meetings, from 25 October to 1 November (see A/C.1/55/PV.22-28).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures (A/55/272).

5. No proposals were submitted and no action was taken by the Committee under this item.

00-73499 (E) 101100

United Nations A/55/552

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 66 and 67

Development of good-neighbourly relations among Balkan States

Maintenance of international security

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Rastislav **Gabriel** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. The items entitled "Development of good-neighbourly relations among Balkan States" and "Maintenance of international security: (a) prevention of the violent disintegration of States; (b) stability and development of South-Eastern Europe" were included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 52/48 of 9 December 1997 and 54/62 of 1 December 1999.

2. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the items in its agenda and to allocate them to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 September 2000, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 65 to 81, which was held at the 3rd to 13th meetings, from 2 to 13 October (see A/C.1/55/PV.3-13). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 14th to 21st meetings, from 13 to 23 October (see A/C.1/55/PV.14-21). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 22nd to 28th meetings, from 25 October to 1 November (see A/C.1/55/PV.22-28).

4. For its consideration of the items, the Committee had before it the following documents:

00-73463 (E) 131100

(a) Letter dated 19 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/55/76);

(b) Letter dated 20 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/55/165);

(c) Letter dated 3 August 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/55/277-S/2000/783);

(d) Letter dated 15 September 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/55/398-S/2000/883);

(e) Letter dated 21 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/55/406-S/2000/892);

(f) Letter dated 10 October 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of India and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/55/473).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.1/55/L.47 and Rev.1

5. At the 16th meeting, on 17 October, the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on behalf of Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe" (A/C.1/55/L.47). Subsequently, Cyprus, Italy and the Republic of Moldova joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 26th meeting, on 31 October, the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.47, now joined by Iceland and Turkey, introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/55/L.47/Rev.1), which contained the following changes:

(a) The words "and the Joint Statement of the Heads of State and Government adopted at Skopje on 25 October 2000" were added at the end of the ninth preambular paragraph;

(b) At the beginning of the tenth preambular paragraph, the words "*Recalling* the outcome of ..." were replaced by the words "*Noting further*";

(c) In operative paragraph 7, the word "bilateral" was deleted before the word "conflicts".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.47/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 150 to none (see para. 8). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

None.

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed at Helsinki, Finland, on 1 August 1975,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1]

Welcoming the democratic changes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and their positive effects on the peace, stability and development of South-Eastern Europe,

Recalling its resolutions 48/84 B of 16 December 1993, 50/80 B of 12 December 1995, 51/55 of 10 December 1996, 52/48 of 9 December 1997, 53/71 of 4 December 1998 and 54/62 of 1 December 1999,

Recalling also the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe initiated by the European Union, adopted at Cologne, Germany, on 10 June 1999 and endorsed at the Sarajevo Summit of 30 July 1999, and stressing the crucial importance of its implementation,

Recalling also the Sarajevo Summit Declaration, in which the participants affirm their collective and individual readiness to give concrete meaning to the Pact by promoting political and economic reforms, development and enhanced security in the region and also their commitment to make every effort to assist countries in the region in making speedy and measurable progress along this road,

Emphasizing the crucial importance of the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 on Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Noting the importance of the activities of the international organizations, such as the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and the contribution of the Central European Initiative and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation for the implementation of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe,

Noting also the importance of the Charger of good-neighbourly relations, stability, security and cooperation in South-Eastern Europe signed by the participating States of the South-East European Cooperation Process at Bucharest on 12 February 2000, and the Joint Statement of the Heads of State and Government adopted at Skopje on 25 October 2000,

Noting further the convening of the Conference on War-Affected Children at Winnipeg, Canada, from 10 to 17 September 2000,

Emphasizing the importance of regional efforts in South-Eastern Europe on arms control, demining, disarmament and confidence-building measures and concerned that, in spite of ongoing efforts, the illicit traffic and circulation of small arms continue to persist,

Mindful of the importance of national and international activities by all relevant organizations aimed at the creation of peace, security, stability, democracy, cooperation, economic development, observance of human rights and good-neighbourliness in South-Eastern Europe,

Affirming its determination that all nations should live together in peace with one another as good neighbours,

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[1] Resolution 55/2.

1. *Affirms* the urgency of consolidating South-Eastern Europe as a region of peace, security, stability, democracy, cooperation and economic development and for the promotion of good-neighbourliness and observance of human rights, thus contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security and enhancing the prospects for sustained development and prosperity for all peoples in the region as an integral part of Europe;

2. *Calls upon* all participants in the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, and all concerned international organizations, to support the efforts of South-Eastern European States to overcome the negative effects of the Kosovo crisis and other recent crises so as to enable them to pursue sustainable development and their integration into the European structures, and welcomes the results of the third meeting of the Working Table on Security Issues of the Stability Pact, held at Sofia on 4 and 5 October 2000;

3. *Encourages* all States to contribute to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 on Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and welcomes the efforts of and supports the role of the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo and the Kosovo Force in the implementation of their mandates under that resolution;

4. *Calls upon* all States, the relevant international organizations and competent organs of the United Nations to respect the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty of all States and the inviolability of international borders, to continue to take measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as appropriate, to eliminate threats to international peace and security and to help to prevent conflicts which can lead to the violent disintegration of States;

5. *Stresses* the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States and calls upon all States to resolve their disputes with other States by peaceful means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

6. *Urges* strengthening of the relations among the States of South-Eastern Europe on the basis of respect for international law and agreements, in accordance with the principles of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect;

7. *Stresses* the importance of regional efforts aimed at preventing conflicts that endanger the maintenance of international peace and security and, in this regard, notes with satisfaction the role of the Multinational Peace Force for South-Eastern Europe;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of regional efforts in South-Eastern Europe for arms control, disarmament and confidence-building measures;

9. *Recognizes* the seriousness of the problem of anti-personnel mines in South-Eastern Europe and, in this context, welcomes the efforts of the international community in support of mine action and encourages States to join and support these efforts;

10. *Urges* all States to take effective measures against illicit traffic in and circulation of small arms, to help programmes and projects aimed at the safe destruction of surplus stocks of small arms and light weapons, and stresses the importance of closer cooperation among States, inter alia, in crime prevention, combating illicit trade of people, drug trafficking and money laundering;

11. *Stresses* that closer engagement of the South-Eastern European States in furthering cooperation on the European continent will favourably influence the security, political and economic situation in the region, as well as good-neighbourly relations among the States;

12. *Calls upon* all States and the relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the subject of the present resolution;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session an item entitled "Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe".